

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An applicator barrel with a finger grip comprising:

an applicator barrel body having an outer surface; and

a three-dimensional tape connectable to a portion of said outer surface, said tape including a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, said first surface having formed thereon at least one integrally formed gripping structure ~~on said first surface, said second surface being adhesive to connect said second surface to said outer surface of said barrel body detachably connected to an adhesive backed label.~~

2. (Previously canceled)

3. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one gripping structure extends inwardly from said first surface.

4. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said three-dimensional tape includes a plurality of gripping structures.

5. (Previously canceled).

6. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 4, wherein said plurality of gripping structures form a diamond pattern.

7. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 4, wherein said plurality of gripping structures form a box-diamond combination pattern.

Claims 8-12 (Previously canceled).

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13. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said tape is formed of polypropylene.

14. (Previously canceled). 

15. (Previously canceled). 

16. (Currently amended) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 15 1, wherein said applicator barrel body is formed from a paper-based layer is selected from the group consisting of paper laminate and cardboard.

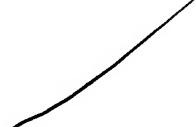
17. (Currently amended) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 15 16, wherein said paper-based layer includes an outer surface with a coated layer.

18. (Original) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said barrel body is formed of plastic.

19. (Previously canceled). 

20. (Previously canceled). 

21. (Canceled). 

22. (Previously canceled). 

23. (Currently amended) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 22 1, wherein said nonwoven material three-dimensional tape is constructed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of copolyester, copolyamide, polyurethane and polyolefin.

Claims 24-47 (Previously canceled). 

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48. (Reinstated-formerly claim 2) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one gripping structure extends outwardly from said first surface.

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49. (Reinstated-formerly claim 5) The tampon applicator as recited in claim 4, wherein plurality of gripping structures form a box pattern.

50. (Reinstated-formerly claim 8) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 4, wherein said plurality of gripping structures are arranged along at least one circumferentially row on said first surface.

51. (Reinstated-formerly claim 9) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one gripping structure has a height of approximately 0.003 inch or more from a base of said gripping structure.

52. (Reinstated-formerly claim 10) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said tape has a width that is between approximately 0.5 inch and approximately 1.0 inch.

53. (Reinstated-formerly claim 11) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said body has a circumference, and wherein said tape has a length that is approximately equal to the circumference.

54. (Reinstated-formerly claim 12) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said tape is connected circumferentially around a portion of said outer surface of said barrel.

55. (Reinstated-formerly claim 14) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said first surface of said tape has an average gripping structure density of approximately 900 to 2500 per square inch.

56. (Reinstated-formerly claim 19) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said first surface of said tape has a higher coefficient of friction than said outer surface of said barrel.

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57. (Reinstated-formerly claim 20) The applicator barrel as recited in claim 1, wherein said barrel body has a forward end and a rear end, said tape being connected proximal to the rear end.

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